

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating the power transmission ability of a frictional power transmission belt which is wound around a plurality of pulleys to transmit power, said method comprising the steps of:

for said frictional power transmission belt, ~~finding a relational expression between~~ calculating WD factors and ST factors on each pulley side, respectively, where ~~the WD is the factor which is~~ factor represents pressing force to each of said pulleys per belt unit length and ~~the ST is the factor which is~~ factor represents an effective tension of said frictional power transmission belt per unit contact length, and finding a relational expression between the WD factor and the ST factor based on an average of the WD factors calculated and an average of the ST factors calculated; and

from said relational expression found, evaluating the power transmission ability of said frictional power transmission belt.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1,
wherein said frictional power transmission belt is a flat belt.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1,
wherein said frictional power transmission belt is a V ribbed belt.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1,
wherein said frictional power transmission belt is a V belt.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4,
wherein said V belt is a V belt for high power transmission which comprises an endless tension member and multiple blocks which are fixedly engaged with said endless tension member.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of aiding the design for a belt drive system with a plurality of pulleys and a frictional power transmission belt which is wound around said plurality of pulleys to transmit power, said method comprising the steps of:

for said frictional power transmission belt, ~~finding a relational expression between~~ calculating WD factors and ST factors on each pulley side, respectively, where ~~the WD is the~~

~~factor which is~~ factor represents pressing force to each of said pulleys per belt unit length and ~~the ST is the factor which is~~ factor represents an effective tension of said frictional power transmission belt per unit contact length, and finding a relational expression between the WD factor and the ST factor based on an average of the WD factors calculated and an average of the ST factors calculated;

from said relational expression found, evaluating the power transmission ability of said frictional power transmission belt; and

based on said belt power transmission ability evaluated, predicting a transmission condition for said belt drive system, using the power transmission ability of said power transmission belt.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6,
wherein a pulley-belt layout is predicted as said transmission condition.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6,
wherein said frictional power transmission belt is a variable speed V belt; and
wherein a range of variable speed for said variable speed V belt is predicted as said transmission condition.